

Spring 2012 OPEN Student Projects: Utah Department of Health

Office of Health Disparities

Project Title	Community Health Outreach Event Assistant (Outreach Team Member)				
UDOH Contact	Dulce Diez and Jake Fitisemanu; UDOH Office of Health Disparities Reduction, Director				
Email	ddiez@utah.gov ; jffitisemanu@utah.gov		Phone		
Work Location	Health outreach event sites in Salt Lake, Weber-Morgan, Davis, Summit, and Utah counties.				
Project Description	The Community Health Outreach Team within the Office of Health Disparities Reduction assists with coordinating and executing health outreach events that provide health screenings, preventive health education, and increased access to primary medical services. Outreach Assistants are responsible for logistic and social assistance including, but not limited to, providing basic health screenings, providing counseling, disseminating health and wellness promotion information and referrals, setting up and taking down booths/tables, and other tasks as needed.				
Prerequisites	Completion of one (1) year of training or health-related work experience preferred (medical school student, physician assistant student, nursing student, etc.).				
Project Start Date	April 2012		Project End Date		October 2012
Hours per week	As program requires (outreach events are not scheduled every week)	Total number of hours	Minimum of 24 combined hours between April – October 2012.	Pay rate	\$60 per event in SL County; \$70 per event outside of SL County.
Other Details	Selected candidates must attend additional training and participate in coordination meetings. Health outreach events requiring approximately 4 hours of time each will be scheduled on an irregular basis between April 1 and October 31, 2012, including weekends and evenings. Outreach Team members must be committed to assisting with a minimum of eight (8) outreach events. Traveling time not included.				

Communicable Disease Investigation & Response Program

Project Title	Healthcare Associated Infections (HAI) Intervention Project				
UDOH Contact	Felicia Alvarez, HAI Epidemiologist				
Email	falvarez@utah.gov		Phone	801-538-9182	
Work Location	UDOH or telecommute possibility				
Project Description	Interns will contact X amount (number to be determined) of hospitals and long term care facilities in Utah to determine if they are using the Inter-Facility Transfer form. This form was designed to help receiving hospitals be aware of patients that are coming into their facility with an infectious agent (MRSA, influenza, etc.). The form will hopefully be in use in all long term care facilities and hospitals by July 2011. Interns will contact the facilities and ask if they are using the form, if so, how often and if they are receiving additional feedback from the receiving or submitting facilities.				
Prerequisites	Knowledge of designing a questionnaire would be useful, but not necessary. Knowledge of Excel or Access will be need. Good communication skills. Need to be able to work independently.				
Project Start Date	ASAP,		Project End Date		When complete
Hours per week	Vary—as available	Total number of hours	Until complete	Pay rate	unpaid
Other Details	Department of Health is open M – Fri from 8 am – 5 pm . Some calls to facilities may be able to be made from home. Will be working with one other intern who has already started.				

Project Title	Animals and Enteric Disease				
UDOH Contact	Julia Hall, Enteric Diseases Epidemiologist				
Email	juliahall@utah.gov		Phone	801-538-6191	
Work Location	UDOH, Cannon Health Building and/or Telecommute				
Project Description	Background: Utah sees almost 400 cases of Salmonella a year and it is a leading contributor to enteric diseases in Utah. Utah is considered a rural state and Utah's population has contact with animals through farms, dairies, rodeos, fairs, etc. that enable humans to have close contact with animals. We would like to assess if animal contact is involved in the transmission of enteric diseases in Utah and how common certain strains are found in certain animals. Utah has already seen an outbreak where just attending the rodeo may have been the cause of illness in a cluster of E. coli cases. We would like to compile a database of current research available on testing results of Salmonella and E. coli serotypes in animals to assist with outbreak investigations.				
Prerequisites	This project would require someone familiar with researching publication databases.				
Project Start Date	Flexible/ this spring		Project End Date		When complete
Hours per week	Flexible	Total number of hours	As required	Pay rate	Unpaid

Project Title	Develop Enteric Disease Investigator Materials and E-learning Resource				
UDOH Contact	Marilee O'Connor, FoodCORE Project Director and Epidemiologist				
Email	mjoconnor@utah.gov		Phone	801-538-9141	
Work Location	UDOH, Cannon Health Building and/or Telecommute				
Project Description	The Utah Dept of Health and all 12 local health departments investigate all cases of reportable enteric disease. The goal of the FoodCORE project is to improve investigation and interviewing of cases of Salmonella, E.coli, and Listeria. FoodCORE is working to develop an e-learning site for enteric disease investigators to assist with training. Responsibilities would involve: 1) Researching existing training tools 2) Developing training tools to address gaps in existing trainings 3) Synthesizing this data into an e-learning site 4) Possible pilot and evaluation.				
Prerequisites	Spanish preferred. Experience with web design/ building or e-learning resources would be helpful. Graduate students preferred.				
Project Start Date	Flexible/ this spring		Project End Date		When complete
Hours per week	Flexible	Total number of hours	As required		Pay rate Unpaid
Other Details	Hours are flexible and willing to work with schedule, but expect regular hours weekly.				

Environmental Epidemiology Program

Project Title	Environmental Public Health Tracking Network: Linkage Investigations (several potential projects of interest)				
UDOH Contact	Sam LeFevre; Emily Stembridge				
Email	slefevre@utah.gov; estembridge@utah.gov		Phone	801-538-6191	
Work Location	Utah Department of Health/Environmental Epidemiology Program				
Project Description	Graduate students preferred. Demonstrate through a pilot project, best practice methodology to link health outcome and population data to environmental data. An example is the investigation of birth outcomes (small-for-gestational age, low birth weight, preterm birth) linked to air pollution levels. Typically these projects include linking population factors from census data, as well as indicators for controlling for confounding (e.g., population-based smoking rates). Demonstration project involve both geographic information system and risk modeling methodology. Products include descriptive statistics, disease mapping, and model results. Students will be exposed to tools for Bayesian analysis. Currently we are interested in linking birth outcomes to air data, birth outcomes to traffic data, asthma hospitalization to air data, ischemic heart disease to air data.				
Prerequisites	Completed a biostatistics course preferred. Experience in SAS and ArcMAP/GIS is helpful. Must be self motivated.				
Project Start Date	Flexible		Project End Date		Determined by School Requirements
Hours per week	Flexible	Total number of hours	No minimum	Pay rate	Unpaid
Other Details	This project will require IRB and Scientific Review Board (SRB) approval. Daily work schedule is flexible. Student will need to review work with preceptor on a weekly basis. Student will have opportunity to attend or participate in other tracking or EEP related activities (committee meetings, etc.)				

Project Title	Environmental Public Health Tracking Network: Disease Mapping				
UDOH Contact	Sam LeFevre; Emily Stembridge				
Email	slefevre@utah.gov; estembridge@utah.gov		Phone	801-538-6191	
Work Location	Utah Department of Health/Environmental Epidemiology Program				
Project Description	<p>This project is for graduate students only. Develop and published a series of disease atlases at geographic small areas. Standard choropleths and spatial surfaces will be generated. Choropleths are smoothed standardized rate or risk ratio maps. Students will be introduced to ArcMAP/GIS and WinBUGS applications/methods for these maps. Spatial surfaces will be developed on uniform or populationdensified grids. Students will be introduced to ArcMAP/GIS – Interpolation and DMAP applications for these maps. Products include disease mapping results and summarization of modeling performance. Students may want to explore maps using cluster assessment tools (GeoDA, SaTScan, Spatial Autocorrelation).</p> <p>Currently interested in developing an atlas of the cancers by SEER cancer site.</p>				
Prerequisites	Must have completed a biostatistics course. Experience in SAS and ArcMAP/GIS is helpful. Must be self-motivated.				
Project Start Date	Flexible		Project End Date		Determined by School Requirements
Hours per week	Flexible	Total number of hours	Meets School Requirements	Pay rate	Unpaid
Other Details	This project will require IRB and Scientific Review Board (SRB) approval. Daily work schedule is flexible. Student will need to review work with preceptor on a weekly basis. Student will have opportunity to attend or participate in other tracking or EEP related activities (committee meetings, etc.).				

Project Title	Healthy Homes Program				
UDOH Contact	Sam LeFevre; Mark Jones				
Email	slefevre@utah.gov; markejones@utah.gov		Phone	801-538-6191	
Work Location	Utah Department of Health/Environmental Epidemiology Program				
Project Description	Undergraduate community health / health education intern. Develop ways to increase awareness about the Healthy Homes program to the residents in Utah (i.e., pamphlets, provide presentations to the public on the various areas of the Healthy Homes program, on how the public can be made aware of and how to protect themselves and their family against exposures to risk factors). Provide data management and follow-up for person(s) exposed to environmental risks relating to Healthy Homes. Update, develop and maintain indicator(s) on the IBIS-PH website and the Healthy Homes website. Use evaluation tools to determine effectiveness of the health education.				
Prerequisites	Excellent written communication skills, to effectively communicate with the public and other health and environmental personnel. Know MS Publisher, MS PowerPoint, MS Excel, MS Word and WordPerfect. Have knowledge or background in health education.				
Project Start Date	flexible		Project End Date		Determined by School Requirements
Hours per week	No minimum	Total number of hours	Meets School Requirements	Pay rate	Unpaid
Other Details	Daily work schedule is flexible. Student will need to review work with preceptor on a weekly basis. Student will have opportunity to attend or participate in other tracking or EEP related activities (committee meetings, etc.).				

Project Title	Environmental Public Health Tracking Network: Linkage Investigations (several potential projects of interest)				
UDOH Contact	Sam LeFevre; Emily Stembridge				
Email	slefevre@utah.gov; estembridge@utah.gov		Phone	801-538-6191	
Work Location	Utah Department of Health/Environmental Epidemiology Program				
Project Description	Graduate students preferred. Demonstrate through a pilot project, best practice methodology to link health outcome and population data to environmental data. An example is the investigation of birth outcomes (small-for-gestational age, low birth weight, preterm birth) linked to air pollution levels. Typically these projects include linking population factors from census data, as well as indicators for controlling for confounding (e.g., population-based smoking rates). Demonstration project involve both geographic information system and risk modeling methodology. Products include descriptive statistics, disease mapping, and model results. Students will be exposed to tools for Bayesian analysis. Currently we are interested in linking birth outcomes to air data, birth outcomes to traffic data, asthma hospitalization to air data, ischemic heart disease to air data.				
Prerequisites	Completed a biostatistics course preferred. Experience in SAS and ArcMAP/GIS is helpful. Must be self motivated.				
Project Start Date	Flexible		Project End Date		Determined by School Requirements
Hours per week	Flexible	Total number of hours	No minimum	Pay rate	Unpaid
Other Details	This project will require IRB and Scientific Review Board (SRB) approval. Daily work schedule is flexible. Student will need to review work with preceptor on a weekly basis. Student will have opportunity to attend or participate in other tracking or EEP related activities (committee meetings, etc.)				

Project Title	Environmental Public Health Tracking Network: Climate Change and Public Health				
UDOH Contact	Sam LeFevre; Emily Stembridge				
Email	slefevre@utah.gov; estembridge@utah.gov		Phone	801-538-6191; 801-538-9341	
Work Location	Utah Department of Health/Environmental Epidemiology Program				
Project Description	Undergraduate community health / health education intern. Lead an effort to collect information about climate change effects on public health and specifically on Utah's public health. Identify indicators of trends and impacts of climate change effects. Design and write sections of a booklet documenting the effects and indicators, using standard public health risk communication models. Collaborate with other programs within the department or local health department to document public health preparedness and response to climate change activity. Products include sections of a publishable booklet.				
Prerequisites	Excellent written communication skills, to effectively communicate with the public and other health and environmental personnel. Know MS Publisher, MS PowerPoint, MS Excel, MS Word and WordPerfect. Have knowledge or background in health education. Skills and experience in Adobe InDesign are preferable.				
Project Start Date	Flexible		Project End Date		Determined by School Requirements
Hours per week	Flexible	Total number of hours	Meets School Requirements	Pay rate	unpaid
Other Details	Daily work schedule is flexible. Student will need to review work with preceptor on a weekly basis. Student will have opportunity to attend or participate in other tracking or EEP related activities (committee meetings, etc.).				

Treatment and Care Program

Project Title	HIV National Monitoring Standards				
UDOH Contact	Rachel Black				
Email	reblack@utah.gov		Phone	801-538-6834	
Work Location	UDOH				
Project Description	Looking for someone to incorporate the new federal monitoring standards into our program manuals. Would also be creating/updating program brochures and website in accordance with national monitoring standards. Other projects as assigned associated with National Monitoring Standards.				
Prerequisites	None				
Project Start Date	Would like to start late spring into summer		Project End Date		End of summer
Hours per week	Flexible	Total number of hours	As practicum requires	Pay rate	Unpaid
Other Details	Hours are flexible and willing to work with student's schedule, but would like regular hours when student will be expected in office.				

Utah Cancer Control Program

Project Title	Public Outreach for breast, cervical, and colorectal cancer using social media				
UDOH Contact	Katie Wagley, Utah Cancer Control Program				
Email	kwagley@utah.gov		Phone	8015386313	
Work Location	UDOH				
Project Description	Participate in gathering up-to-date information on breast, cervical, and colorectal cancers (possibly other cancers as well). Daily activities would include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Gathering accurate and meaningful informationMaking information easy to read and understandable for the lay populationPosting information on social media sites such as facebook				
Prerequisites	Upper-level undergraduate and up				
Project Start Date	As soon as possible		Project End Date		Flexible
Hours per week	As practicum requires	Total number of hours	As practicum requires	Pay rate	Unpaid, possible stipend
Other Details	This internship will give students the opportunity to evaluate meaningful health education messages and create easy-to-read messages.				

Project Title	<i>Utah Cancer Action Network Evaluation</i>				
UDOH Contact	Meghan Balough, MPH, CHES				
Email	mbalough@utah.gov		Phone	801-538-6204	
Work Location	UDOH and offsite				
Project Description	<p>The Utah Cancer Control Program is seeking an intern to conduct an evaluation of the Utah Cancer Action Network (UCAN). UCAN is a network of people and organizations that are committed to reducing the cancer burden in Utah through implementation of the Utah Comprehensive Cancer Prevention and Control Plan.</p> <p>The evaluation will consist of key informant interviews of UCAN members to answer the following evaluation questions:</p> <p>What factors are affecting (positively or negatively) partnership maintenance and/or participation?</p> <p>Are stakeholders satisfied with the work of the partnership?</p> <p>Essential Functions:</p> <p>develop the interview tool</p> <p>select a sample of UCAN members to be interviewed</p> <p>interview UCAN members</p> <p>transcribe interviews</p> <p>analyze results</p> <p>write a report on the results of the evaluation and present it to the UCAN chairs</p>				
Prerequisites	<p>Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Public health evaluation theory and technique• Skill in written and verbal communication• Ability to make presentations <p>Education and Experience</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Must be working toward a degree in public health, health promotion or closely related field. Master level preferred.				
Project Start Date	Needed Immediately		Project End Date		May 2012
Hours per week	Negotiable	Total number of hours	As practicum requires	Pay rate	Unpaid, possible stipend
Other Details	Guidance will be provided by the program epidemiologist along with the health educator. This is a great opportunity to learn more about how Utah is combating cancer. Those interested in learning more about epidemiology or health education are encouraged to apply.				

Project Title	Sun Safety and Skin Cancer Awareness at Youth Recreation Centers				
UDOH Contact	Kristi Wilcoxson Smith, Utah Cancer Control Program				
Email	kwilcoxson@utah.gov		Phone	801-538-6190	
Work Location	UDOH				
Project Description	Participate in coordinating two sun safety/skin cancer awareness projects from start to finish with Salt Lake and Summit County youth soccer leagues as well as a Salt Lake Area swimming pool. Projects will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• contacting recreation center staff to coordinate project activities• coordinating meeting times• creating materials• training recreation staff and volunteers• hosting education booths• coordinating pre/post evaluations				
Prerequisites	Upper-level undergraduate				
Project Start Date	February		Project End Date		June- August
Hours per week	As practicum requires	Total number of hours	As practicum requires	Pay rate	Unpaid, possible stipend
Other Details	This internship gives students the opportunity to implement an evidence-based project from start to finish.				

Tobacco Prevention and Control Program

Project Title	Developing model to predict smoking rates at US census-tract level				
UDOH Contact	Camille Roundy, Epidemiologist				
Email	croundy@utah.gov		Phone	801-538-7041	
Work Location	Cannon Building				
Project Description	This project will explore GIS, health, and demographic datasets to develop a model for predicting smoking rates at the U.S. census tracts, a smaller a more detailed scale than is currently available. The project will involve data manipulation in the statistical software program SAS. The student will be expected to test datasets and determine which are best for including in the predictive model. This work will assist the Environmental Epidemiology Program in controlling for smoking as a non-environmental risk factor in identifying geographic cancer clusters. The same mechanism to control for smoking will assist the Tobacco Prevention and Control Program in targeting interventions. If time allows, the project can include GIS mapping of the data identified to be predictive of smoking rates. The project will also involve a literature review, developing a proposal for the Utah Department of Health Institutional Review Board and a weekly meeting with supervising staff.				
Prerequisites	Biostatistics, familiarity with ArcGIS, must the MPH students or equivalent in related field				
Project Start Date	Flexible		Project End Date		Flexible
Hours per week	Flexible	Total number of hours	Flexible	Pay rate	\$200 stipend
Other Details	Some work must be conducted in the Cannon Building because of the sensitivity of the datasets. Other work can be done outside of the Cannon Building. Please submit resume via email by March 7, 2012.				

Community Needs Assessment with Regional Epidemiologist

Project Title	Community Needs Assessment				
UDOH Contact	Louise Saw, Central Utah Public Health Department				
Email	lsaw@utah.gov		Phone	435-817-2710	
Work Location	Telecommute via skype, email, and conference call				
Project Description	The project would include community needs assessment. The scope could be broad or narrow depending on the student's interests. For example if the student is interested in chronic disease topics, evaluation of programs and projects to increase fruit and vegetable consumption could be done. If the student is interested in a more broad range of topics, a less in-depth report of relevant indicators of health in the community could be compiled specifically for the local area of interest (within the counties of Central Utah Public Health Department and Southwest Utah Public Health Department). The student would be expected to work on projects using a computer. Work on the agreed upon tasks discussed in weekly or bi-weekly meetings is expected to be done independently by the student in the hours between meeting with the project lead (Louise) IBIS system..				
Prerequisites	Successful completion of Biostatistics, Epidemiology, and Evaluation coursework in a bachelors or masters level public health program helpful. General IT experience and proficiency with Excel, SAS, EARS, GIS/mapping programs is preferred but if the student is a self-directed fast learner this could be acceptable.				
Project Start Date	January 2012		Project End Date		April 2012
Hours per week	As school project requires	Total number of hours	As project requires	Pay rate	unpaid
Other Details	IRB approval will be needed if the student would like to collect primary data not currently available in the public IBIS-PH portal. While flexibility is available for dates and hours only approximately 10 hours a week of direct supervision by the project lead (myself) will be available. Preference of these hours would be within Mondays-Thursday between 10:00 AM-3:00 PM.				

Job Shadows: 1 opening per semester per position: 2 hours in length for each position.

- 1) **Angela Rhoades, Immunization Program** (Bureau of Epidemiology): Health Program Specialist. Contact Marilee O'Connor, mjoconnor@utah.gov to schedule.
- 2) **David Jackson, Communicable Disease Analysis and Reporting Program HIV/AIDS** (Bureau of Epidemiology): Program Manager. Contact Marilee O'Connor, mjoconnor@utah.gov to schedule.
- 3) **Marcee Mortensen, TB/ Refugee Health** (Bureau of Epidemiology): Health Program Specialist. Contact Marcee, marceemortensen@utah.gov to schedule.
- 4) **Other programs, departments may be available by request.**